

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

PLEASE ENTER 5/18/06
AAH

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously Amended) An iron-type golf club head comprising:

a body including a front wall having a ball-striking surface, a rear surface having an external rear cavity formed therein, a toe end and a heel end, the front wall being integrally formed with the body, the rear surface including an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion being separated from the lower portion by the external rear cavity and at least one groove, the lower portion of the rear surface having a notch formed therein, the notch communicating with the external rear cavity,

wherein the at least one groove extends from the external rear cavity proximate an open end of the notch toward one of the heel end and the toe end.
2. (Previously Amended) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the at least one groove extends from the external rear cavity toward the heel end of the club head.
3. (Previously Amended) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein at least one groove includes a first groove extending from the external rear cavity toward the heel end of the club head, and a second groove extending from the external rear cavity toward the toe end of the club head.
4. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the at least one groove has a width of approximately 0.040 inch.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the lower portion of the rear surface extends at least approximately 0.035 inch rearward of the upper portion of the rear surface.

7. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the body includes an undercut recess along at least a portion of the external rear cavity.

8. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the body is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, titanium, titanium alloy, zirconium and zirconium alloy.

9. (Original) The iron golf club head according to claim 1, wherein the club head has a moment of inertia I_{xx} through the center of gravity of at least 2200 g-cm² and a moment of inertia I_{zz} through the center of gravity of at least 2100 g-cm².

10. (Previously Amended) An iron-type golf club head comprising:

a body composed of a material selected from the group including stainless steel, titanium and titanium alloy, the body including a front wall having a ball-striking surface, a rear surface having an external rear cavity formed therein, a toe end and a heel end, the front wall being integrally formed with the body, the rear surface including an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion having a notch formed therein, the notch communicating with the external rear cavity,

wherein the upper portion of the rear surface is separated from the lower portion by the external rear cavity, a first groove and a second groove, the first groove extending from

the external rear cavity toward the heel end, and the second groove extending from the external rear cavity toward the toe end, and wherein the first groove is not collinear with the second groove.

11. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 10, wherein each of the first and second grooves has a width of approximately 0.040 inch.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 10, wherein the lower portion of the rear surface extends at least approximately 0.035 inch rearward of the upper portion of the rear surface.

14. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 10, wherein the body includes an undercut recess along at least a portion of the external rear cavity.

15. (Previously Amended) An iron-type golf club head comprising:

a body including a front wall having a ball-striking surface, a rear surface having an external rear cavity formed therein, a toe end and a heel end, the front wall being integrally formed with the body, the rear surface including an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion extending further rearward than the upper portion and having a notch formed therein, the notch communicating with the external rear cavity,

wherein the upper portion of the rear surface is separated from the lower portion by the external rear cavity, a first groove and a second groove, the first groove extending from the external rear cavity toward the heel end, and the second groove extending from the external

rear cavity toward the toe end, and wherein the first groove is not collinear with the second groove.

16. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 15, wherein each of the first and second grooves has a width of approximately 0.040 inch.

17. (Original) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 15, wherein the lower portion of the rear surface extends at least approximately 0.035 inch rearward of the upper portion of the rear surface.

18. (Previously Presented) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 2, wherein the at least one groove that extends from the external rear cavity toward the heel end also extends downward toward a bottom wall of the club head.

19. (Previously Presented) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 3, wherein the first groove is not collinear with the second groove.

20. (Previously Presented) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 10, wherein the first groove also extends downward toward a bottom wall of the club head.

21. (Previously Presented) The iron-type golf club head according to claim 15, wherein the first groove also extends downward toward a bottom wall of the club head.